

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 6503

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 304280

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT SOFIA 2786, ACTION SECSTATE, INFO MOSCOW,
WARSAW DEC 23:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICNAF, OCON, XN, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN INTENTION TO FILE OBJECTION TO ICNAF

MONTREAL DECISION

REF: A) STATE 299422; B) SOFIA 2767; C) WARSAW 8240

1. REF A MOST HELPFUL, IT CONTAINED EXACTLY WHAT WE NEEDED
TO MAKE THE CASE AGAINST BULGARIA RAISING FORMAL OBJECTION.
TODOROV BEING UNAVAILABLE, WE FIRST SENT PAPER TO HIS OFFICE
DETAILING THE FACTUAL SITUATION AND THE LIKELY CONSEQUENCES
OF BULGARIAN OBJECTION, AND THEN MADE APPOINTMENT FOR AMBAS-
SADOR URGENTLY TO SEE HIS SUPERIOR KARASIMEONOV, CHIEF OF
LEGAL AND TREATIES DEPARTMENT. MEETING TOOK PLACE LATE
DEC 22.

2. KARASIMEONOV, WHO HAD READ OUR PAPER, TRIED (A) TO
BARGAIN; (B) TO SUGGEST THAT IF BULGARIA ENTERED ITS OBJEC-
TION "UNDER THE WIRE" JUST BEFORE THE DEC 31 DEADLINE,
OTHERS WOULD NOT HAVE TIME TO REINSTATE THEIR EARLIER
OBJECTIONS OR TO FILE NEW ONES; AND IT WAS EXPLAINED
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TO HIM WHY EITHER COURSE WOULD ENTAIL SERIOUS LONG-

TERM DISADVANTAGES FOR BULGARIAN FISHERIES. IT WAS AGAIN SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR BULGARIA ALSO TO CONSULT WITH OTHER MONTREAL PARTICIPANTS SUCH AS USSR AND POLAND, AND POINTED OUT THOSE COUNTRIES HAD COOPERATED IN ABSORBING MASSIVE CUTS IN THE INTEREST OF CONSERVATION AND OF THEIR CONTINUING ACCESS TO NORTH ATLANTIC FISHERIES.

3. AS FOR BROADER LOS ASPECTS, AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT MFA URGENTLY CONSULT WITH YANKOV IN LONDON BEFORE TAKING ANY STEPS. ALSO SPELLED OUT THE LIKELY CHAIN REACTION FROM A BULGARIAN OBJECTION AND ITS ULTIMATE EFFECT ON THE LOS CONFERENCE WHERE THE MARITIME POWERS, NOT LEAST AMONG THEM THE USSR, HAVE IMPORTANT INTERESTS INCLUDING STRATEGIC INTERESTS TO PROTECT.

4. KARASIMEONOV, WHILE CONCEDED NOTHING, AGREED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH US REGARDING OUTCOME OF HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES. HE SAID THAT MINISTRY ESPECIALLY CONCERNED OVER ANTICIPATED MACKEREL, FLOUNDER, AND SILVER HAKE CATCHES. HE SEEMED TO THINK IN TERMS OF A "COMPROMISE" WHEREBY BULGARIA WOULD LET THE DEC 31 DEADLINE SLIP BUT MIGHT FILE ITS OBJECTION WITHIN THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDING APRIL 14, 1976/.
HERZ UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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